

# University to create office to help minorities

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland University President Sandra Packard hopes to establish a program to give special aid to the institution's 1,365 minority students.

Upon receiving a report studying the need for an "Office of Minority Equity," Packard issued a statement saying, "I am sure as we seek to implement some of these suggestions, we will significantly improve the service of our campus for minority students."

The nearly three-month study, conducted by assistant vice president Manuel Pierson, was ordered by Packard five days after a Dec.

9, 1992, protest on the part of about 80 of the university's 802 black students, who lobbied for a minority affairs office, among other things.

Packard intends to study Pierson's report over the spring and summer and "will seek to establish an office ready for student service by the time students return to campus in the fall," according to an OU press release.

In the report, Pierson said, "Integration into the Oakland University community has produced for many a sense of isolation and non-acceptance. There is a feeling by many that they must prove themselves worthy. Such feelings have produced alienation."

**'I really don't think some of the (advisory) people over there are knowledgeable enough.'**

*Chaunci Wyche  
OU student leader*

Pierson contends that a minority affairs "will dramatically increase the graduation rate of the targeted minorities (and give them) a feeling of warmth for the university."

Among Pierson's recommendations are:

■ That the minority affairs office should be located administratively in the office of the president.

■ That the office should be staffed by three full-time administrators, including a Hispanic individual of either sex and a black man.

■ That a 25-member "Minority Equity Advisory Council" should be established to advise the university president on minority issues and assist in recruitment, agenda.

■ That 25 \$1,000 scholarships should be set up and reserved for minority students. (The admissions office currently lists 63 available scholarships.)

Most of Pierson's other recom-

mendations are not specific, but rather call for the minority affairs office to "institute strategies" that would accomplish goals like:

■ Seeing that minority students have "better access" to certain majors.

■ "Bringing about a multicultural community, focus on brotherhood and pluralism and help students understand that they are not each other's enemies."

■ Boosting the number of minority professors in all departments.

In her view, Wyche said, the office's main mission should be to see that minority students get the proper academic and financial advising.

Wyche criticized the university's current student advising office. "I really don't think some of the people over there are knowledgeable enough," she said. "You get brushed off."

Wyche also said that many minority students "don't know where to go" to get the information and services they need to complete college successfully. "How can you apply for scholarships you don't know about?" she said.

## George Kuhn awarded for service to county

Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn has been selected as 1993's Career Elected Official by the American Society of Public Administrators, Detroit chapter.

Kuhn, who turned 68 on Feb. 25, has been the drain commissioner since 1973 and previously served as a state senator for four years and mayor of Berkeley for eight years.

He also retired from the Ford Motor Company, where he worked as an executive, and from the Navy Reserve, where he rose to the rank of captain.

A World War II and Korean War veteran, Kuhn lives in West Bloomfield Township. The award was presented to Kuhn on Feb. 26, the day after his birthday, at the Engineering Society of Detroit.

## Genealogy program set

The Oakland County Genealogical Society has a program called "Learning About Computers" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, in the Rotary Room of the Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill in Birmingham.

Janet Gerstonecker, a self-employed contractor in computer education, will talk about the use of computers in genealogy. There is no fee. Call Judy Rossmann at 357-3193.



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